

Charlton Cottage
12 Mediterranean Lane
Norwichtown
New London County
Connecticut

HABS No. CONN-246

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. CONN-246

CHARLTON COTTAGE

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Street Address: 12 Mediterranean Lane, Norwichtown, New London
County, Connecticut

Present Owner: Mrs. Ozias Dodge, Mediterranean Lane, Norwichtown,
Connecticut

Present Occupant: Raymond B. Case

Present Use: Residence

Brief Statement
of Significance: This is a carefully restored example of a small
frame cottage built about 1800.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

- A. Original and subsequent owners: The original house was probably built as a seaman's hideaway for Captain Richard Charlton, who died in 1757. The house, in its present form, was built by his son, Samuel Charlton.
- B. Date of erection: Before 1812, probably in the last quarter of the eighteenth century. The heavy timber frame has unused mortises indicating that it was probably from an earlier building and dismantled and reused in this house.
- C. Notes on alterations and additions: The present occupant, Raymond B. Case, who has lived in the cottage about 15 years, has extensively restored and furnished it. The building was in ruinous condition when he started work on it.
- D. Sources of information:
 1. Ada R. Chase, "History in towns: Norwich, Connecticut," Antiques, June 1961, pages 560-565.
 2. Interview with Raymond B. Case, 12 Mediterranean Lane, Norwich, Connecticut--October 26, 1960.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

- A. General Statement:
 1. Architectural interest: This is a carefully restored example of a small frame cottage built about 1800.
 2. Condition of fabric: Excellent.

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B. Technical Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The building is 18' x 29', divided into five bays wide, one-and-a-half stories high, and faces southeast. 17.
2. Foundations: Rough-cut, local gneiss.
3. Wall construction: Heavy timber frame of chestnut and oak sheathed with clapboards.
4. Stoops: Rough-cut granite stoops at the southeast (front) door and the southwest (side) door.
5. Chimneys: One large central brick chimney.
6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Front and side doors are panel doors with two vertical panels. The front door has four sidelights on each side, restored with old bulls-eye glass. Four simple, flat pilasters enframe the front door and sidelights.
 - b. Windows and shutters: Double-hung windows, six-light sash over six-light. No shutters.
7. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: Gable roof, pitched about 45 degrees; shingled.
 - b. Cornice, eaves: There is no roof projection, and the eave is simply closed with a fascia.

C. Technical Description of Interiors:

1. Floor plans: Central chimney type plan with the living room (originally the large kitchen) occupying the southwest half of the house; a bedroom on the northeast side of the central chimney; and a small modern kitchen behind (or northwest) of the chimney.
2. Stairway: Steep, open stair, without a hand rail, against the chimney near the entrance. 19" wide; 6-1/2" treads; 8" risers; 10 risers total.
3. Flooring: Wide pine boards.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Restored with vertical boarding with feather molded edges.

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5. Doorways and doors: Modern reproductions.
6. Trim: Simple molded wood trim.
7. Hardware: Some original; some old, wrought-iron hardware.
8. Lighting: Some electric lighting, mostly candles.
9. Heating: Two fireplaces and an oil stove. The brick fireplaces are very shallow and have plastered faces painted red, typical of Norwich fireplaces. Left of the fireplace in the living room is an oven, oval in plan, 39" deep, 22" wide, with a domed roof 14" high.

D. Site:

1. Orientation and general setting: The length of the house is oriented northeast-southwest, with the main entrance at the center of the long southeast side. The house is situated on a steep, rocky hillside, terraced with stone walls.
2. Walks: Stone walks.
3. Landscaping: Informal gardens.

Prepared by Osmund R. Overby, Architect
National Park Service
October 1960